

Guidance for the NINDS R25 program for residents and fellows

STRUCTURE

Participation occurs in increments - each increment covers a 12 month period between July 1 and June 30th of the following year. Each potential increment of support requires a request via an administrative supplement application (see below; [PA-14-322](#)).

- Increment 1: 6-12 contiguous* months during residency
- Increment 2: 9-12 months during fellowship or 2nd residency year
- Increment 3: 12 months during fellowship

**could be all in one PGY or in the last part of one PGY and the beginning of the next PGY. Plans for non-contiguous support during residency must be approved in advance by NINDS and will require a research reason for the lack of contiguous support.*

- The first two increments of support must total at least 18 months of participation at 80% effort.
- A gap is allowed between increments 1 and 2 to allow for clinical activities, including completion of residency or clinical fellowships.
- A gap is not allowed between increments 2 and 3.
- The final 6 months of support during increment 3 is contingent upon submission of an NIH Career Development (K) or R01 application by the end of 18 months of fellowship (post-1st increment) support.
- In general, support cannot be obtained once in a faculty position. However, exceptions are possible when promotion to a faculty position is required for billing purposes. Exceptions will be rare, and require written approval in advance by NINDS.

EFFORT

- 80% effort (4 full days) during the 5 day (Monday-Friday) work week is required while supported (for neurosurgeons, 80% effort is required for the first 12 months of support; 50% effort thereafter).
- Vacation time must be pro-rated (e.g. if supported for 6 months at 80% effort, up to 40% of yearly vacation may be taken during the 6-month period).
- Clinical or non-research coverage for colleagues must be made up so that R25 protected time totals 80% during the support period.

REQUESTING SUPPORT

- October 31st is the deadline to request any increment of support for a start date the following July.
- With appropriate progress, all participants who complete at least 6 months of R25 research/education during residency will obtain subsequent support if a complete supplement request is submitted on time.
- A complete research/education description, and progress report when relevant, must be submitted as a supplement request by the supplement request deadline for all participants for all increments (i.e. support in increments 2 and 3 require a full supplement application by the October 31 deadline).
- Participants are encouraged to obtain non-governmental support to supplement the R25 (e.g. grants from disease foundations, etc.). This support cannot be functionally overlapping

(support for research costs may be obtained, but support for participant salary may not be obtained in addition to the R25 support).

- Up to \$10,000 may be requested for each program to support administrative costs. This must be included as a line item in a supplement application.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SUPPLEMENT APPLICATION

- When writing the research description, the contribution of the participant should be clearly distinguished from the contributions to the project by others. Applications **should not** be written in first person plural or in third person. Work planned or done by the applicant should be described in a first person singular narrative, work done by others should be attributed appropriately.
- The research plan should be designed to lead to a Career Development Award (K) or R01 application. The R25 research/education description should make clear (either explicitly or implicitly) how the proposed project is expected to evolve to allow for this next application.
- As stated in the FOA, proposed coursework should be minimal, and should only consist of that necessary to design and conduct scientific projects appropriately (i.e. experimental design, statistics, etc.).
- The proposed mentor should write a detailed explanation of his/her mentoring and training plan that will facilitate the participant's transition to the next award.
- Highly significant, non-incremental projects are strongly encouraged. However, these proposals should be realistic. For example, a candidate with little or no research experience proposing a complex project for which the laboratory has little expertise or experience might be considered to be of extremely high risk for success.
- Because these projects must be designed to lead to a K or R01 application, participants should propose projects that will become their own (i.e. they should not simply be proposing to do experiments previously proposed by others).

THE NINDS R25 WORKSHOP

As stated in the FOA, participants are expected to attend the NINDS R25 workshop each year that they receive support - funds are included in the supplement for this purpose. It is understood, of course, that health or other emergencies may prevent attendance, but barring an emergency, attendance is expected. Clinical coverage is not an acceptable reason to miss the workshop.

- **Dissemination of information about the workshop**
 - NINDS contacts the R25 PIs each year with information about the workshops (as well as with any other information about the R25 program).
 - NINDS cannot contact each resident and fellow, so depends upon the R25 PI to disseminate all needed information.
- **Poster Presentation**

A poster session featuring the active or planned research by the R25 residents and fellows is held as part of the R25 workshop.

 - At each R25 workshop, participants are expected to present a poster that describes their research project. If they haven't yet started their research, the poster should present their planned project.
 - **Posters should include only the work of the participant.** Background information can include references to other data. However, the purpose of the session is for the

participant to share the research that he/she has done or is planning to do. **Posters should include little or no work planned or done by others, and should not consist of posters that describe a larger laboratory effort, such as may be used for other meetings.**

- **Specific Aims Consultation**

- Because participants must submit grant applications within the first 6 months of the 3rd increment of R25 support, all participants who are on their 2nd increment of R25 support should submit a polished set of specific aims to the workshop, where they will have the opportunity for personalized review by faculty (the details of such submission is announced each year).
- Participants on their 3rd increment of support who are preparing applications for independent funding should also submit a set of aims for personalized review.

- **R25 PI workshop attendance**

- The success of the program is highly dependent on the participation of R25 PIs not only throughout the year but also at the annual R25 workshop. Indeed, most of the structure and methods employed for this R25 program have been devised based on consultation and recommendations by the R25 PIs.
- Administrative support is provided upon request in the grant each year. Whereas these funds may be used for a variety of allowable costs, they are intended to help support travel by the PI to the annual R25 workshop.